

## Definition: buffer

Search dictionary for **buffer**

Source: *WordNet (r) 1.7*

**buffer**

- n 1: an ionic compound that resists changes in its pH
- 2: an inclined metal frame at the front of a locomotive to clear the track [syn: fender, cowcatcher, pilot]
- 3: (computer science) a part of RAM used for temporary storage of data that is waiting to be sent to a device; used to compensate for differences in the rate of flow of data between components of a computer system [syn: buffer storage, buffer store]
- 4: a power tool used to buff surfaces [syn: polisher]
- 5: a cushion-like device that reduces shock due to contact [syn: fender]
- 6: an implement consisting of soft material mounted on a block; used for polishing (as in manicuring) [syn: buff]
- v 1: add a buffer to; of solutions; "buffered saline solution for the eyes"
- 2: protect from impact; "cushion the blow" [syn: cushion, soften]

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Source: *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913)*

**Buffer** \Buff"er\ (b[u^]f"[~e]r), n. [Prop a striker. See Buffet a blow.]

1. (Mech.)
  - (a) An elastic apparatus or fender, for deadening the jar caused by the collision of bodies; as, a buffer at the end of a railroad car.
  - (b) A pad or cushion forming the end of a fender, which receives the blow; -- sometimes called buffing apparatus.
2. One who polishes with a buff.
3. A wheel for buffing; a buff.
4. A good-humored, slow-witted fellow; -- usually said of an elderly man. [Colloq.] --Dickens.

Source: *The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing (2003-OCT-10)*

**buffer**

1. An area of memory used for storing messages. Typically, a buffer will have other attributes such as an input pointer (where new data will be written into the buffer), and output pointer (where the next item will be read from) and/or a count of the space used or free. Buffers are used to decouple processes so that the reader and writer may operate at different speeds or on different sized blocks of data.

There are many different algorithms for using buffers, e.g. first-in first-out (FIFO or shelf), last-in first-out (LIFO or stack), double buffering (allowing one buffer to be read while the other is being written), cyclic buffer (reading or writing past the end wraps around to the beginning).

2. An electronic device to provide compatibility between two signals, e.g. changing voltage levels or current capability.

Exhibit 2